

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 SSM-05 SIG-03
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DRAFTED BY NEA/P:WBHARRIS:RGH
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
S/PRS - MR. CARTER
H - MR. FLATEN
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW
NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH
NEA/ARN - MR. DRAPER
NEA/ARP - MR. TWINAM
NEA/EGY - MR. NEWBERRY

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION SINAI
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
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AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
USCINCEUR
DOD
JCS
CIA
USIA
NSC

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CINCEUR FOR POLAD, TEL AVIV FOR PAO, DELIVER BY 9 A.M.

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - MARCH 20

1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE
EXCERPTS FROM DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR MARCH 20, 1978.
FYI ONLY, SPOKESMAN TODAY WAS JOHN TRATTNER.

MR. TRATTNER: THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED
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TO RESPOND IMMEDIATELY TO THE REQUEST OF THE GOVERNMENT
OF LEBANON FOR ASSISTANCE IN DEALING WITH THE TRAGIC
SITUATION OF THE PEOPLE DISPLACED BY THE FIGHTING IN
LEBANON. THERE ARE OVER 150,000 PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN
FORCED TO FLEE THE FIGHTING. THEY ARE IN URGENT NEED OF
SHELTER, BLANKETS, AND OTHER RELIEF SUPPLIES.

THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO MAKE A
SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTION TO ASSISTING THOSE IN NEED. AS
A FIRST STEP WE ARE NOW MOVING TO SEND TENTS AND BLANKETS
TO LEBANON BY AIR. WE ARE CONSULTING WITH THE GOVERNMENT
OF LEBANON ABOUT ADDITIONAL NEEDS. MORE DETAILS WILL BE
PROVIDED ON THE EXACT NATURE OF U.S. ASSISTANCE AND ITS
MAGNITUDE IN THE DAYS AHEAD.

Q. HOW MUCH MONEY IS INVOLVED?

A. WELL, I CAN'T GIVE YOU A PRECISE FIGURE OTHER THAN
TO SAY SEVERAL MILLION DOLLARS ARE INVOLVED.

Q. HAVE THEY ALREADY STARTED? IT SAYS "WE ARE NOW
MOVING ..." HAVE THEY ACTUALLY FLOWN? AND WHERE ARE

THEY FLYING FROM?

A. WELL, I THINK THAT YOU CAN ASSUME THAT THEY WILL BE GOING VERY SHORTLY, PERHAPS TODAY. I DONT HAVE ANY PRECISION ON EXACTLY WHEN THEY ARE DEPARTING AND TO WHERE THEY ARE GOING.

Q. ARE THESE FROM ITALY? USUALLY WE ALWAYS SEND THINGS FROM ITALY.

A. WELL, AGAIN, I AM NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO ANSWER A LOT OF QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS, BECAUSE I DONT THINK THE DETAILS ARE IN. BUT YOU WILL NOTE THAT THE STATEMENT SAYS WE WILL BE GIVING YOU THOSE DETAILS AS UNCLASSIFIED

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WE GET THEM LATER ON.

Q. IF YOU HAVE A REFUGEE FIGURE, DO YOU ALSO HAVE A KILL AND AN INJURED FIGURE?

A. I DONT HAVE ANY FIGURES AT ALL ON THOSE TODAY, NO.

Q. WHERE DID YOU GET YOUR REFUGEE FIGURE FROM?

A. I ASSUME THAT THE FIGURE HAS BEEN PROVIDED TO US BASICALLY BY THE EMBASSY IN BEIRUT, BASED ON ITS OWN OBSERVATIONS ADN REPORTS GOING INTO IT FROM OTHER SOURCES IN LEBANON.

Q. THEY DONT GIVE YOU AN IDEA OF HOW MANY PEOPLE HAVE BEEN KILLED OR INJURED?

A. WELL, I DONT HAVE IT HERE. THATS NOT TO SAY WE DONT HAVE IT IN THE BUILDING -- I JUST DONT HAVE A FIGURE HERE. GEORGE, DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING LIKE THAT TODAY?

MR. SHERMAN: THE FIGURE I HEARD ON THE RADIO FROM THE RED CROSS WAS 600 OR 650, BUT WE HAVE TO GET THAT EXACTLY FOR YOU.

Q. WHERE DOES THIS SEVERAL MILLION DOLLARS COME FROM?

MR. TRATTNER: I THINK ITS AID DISASTER RELIEF FUNDS.

I AM NOT ALTOGETHER CERTAIN ABOUT THAT, BUT I THINK THATS CORRECT.

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Q. IT DOESNT HAVE TO BE APPROVED BY ANYBODY, DOES IT?
ITS AT THE DEPARTMENT'S DISCRETION.

A. YES.

Q. AND ARE THEY ELIGIBLE FOR THE U.N. RELIEF AS
PALESTINIAN REFUGEES ARE --UNWRA --WHATEVER ITS CALLED?

A. THAT IS ANOTHER POINT I CANT ANSWER BECAUSE I DONT
KNOW, BUT WHATEVER THAT CASE IS, WE ARE MOVING TO SUPPLY
OUR OWN ASSISTANCE TO THEM.

Q. HAVE YOU MADE ANY EFFORT TO ASK OTHER PEOPLE TO
JOIN, I MEAN, OTHER COUNTRIES?

A. I AM NOT AWARE THAT WE HAVE HAD ANY EXTENSIVE
CONVERSATION WITH OTHERS ON THIS REFUGEE RELIEF.
OBVIOUSLY WE WOULD WELCOME ANYTHING THAT ANYONE ELSE
WOULD LIKE TO DO, BUT I AM NOT AWARE THAT WE HAVE GONE
OUT EXTENSIVELY TALKING TO OTHERS ABOUT THEIR
CONTRIBUTIONS.

Q. WHO IS RUNNING THIS SHOW IN THE UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT? THE AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT,
THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT? YOUR STATEMENT DOESNT INDICATE.

MR. TRATTNER: I WOULD ASSUME THAT THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT
WILL BE INVOLVED IN THE TRANSPORT OF THIS MATERIAL. I
THINK AID IS CENTRALLY INVOLVED--THE NORMAL RELIEF
EFFORT OF THIS KIND THAT WE HAVE MOUNTED SO MANY TIMES
IN THE PAST.

Q. ON THE GENERAL SUBJECT OF SOUTHERN LEBANON; DO YOU
NOW HAVE ANY ASSURANCE OR IDEA IF AND WHEN THE ISRAELI
FORCES WILL WITHDRAW FROM SOUTHERN LEBANON ONCE THE
U.N. FORCE IS IN PLACE?

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A. WE FEEL THAT THE ISRAELIS WILL COOPERATE; WE SEE
NO REASON WHY THEY WONT. I THINK THE FIRST CONTACTS
ARE BEING MADE TODAY IN JERUSALEM BETWEEN THE REPRESENTATIVE OR REPRESENTATIVES OF THE U.N. PEACE-KEEPING
FORCE AND THE ISRAELI AUTHORITIES. WE DONT EXPECT THAT
THERE WILL BE ANY PROBLEM. THE NEXT STEP, AS I SAY,

IS FOR THE ARRANGEMENTS TO BE WORKED OUT FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF THE U.N. FORCE. THE RESOLUTION PASSED YESTER-

DAY CALLED FOR FORTHWITH ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL, AND IT CALLS FOR THE U.N. FORCES TO CONFIRM THAT WITHDRAWAL. ITS A QUESTION NOW OF WORKING OUT ARRANGEMENTS ON THE GROUND, AND WE EXPECT THAT TO BE DONE WITHOUT DELAY.

Q. AND HOW DO YOU DEFINE "FORTHWITH"?

A. I THINK THAT "FORTHWITH" IS GENERALLY DEFINED AS "RAPID".

Q. AS IT TAKES PLACE BY A U.N. FORCE OR BEFORE A U.N. FORCE TAKES A POSITION, FIXED POSITIONS?

A. THATS GOING TO BE THE SUBJECT OF THE ARRANGEMENTS THEY ARE TALKING ABOUT IN JERUSALEM. I CANT TELL YOU NOW EXACTLY IN ANY REAL DETAIL HOW ITS GOING TO HAPPEN.

Q. WILL THE AREA TO BE PATROLLED OR OCCUPIED BY THE U.N. FORCE ALSO BE ONE OF THE ARRANGEMENTS TO BE WORKED OUT?

A. YES, I THINK THAT TECHNICALLY THAT IS AN ARRANGEMENT TO BE WORKED OUT.
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Q. I MEAN ORIGINALLY THE ISRAELIS WERE TALKING ABOUT A FIVE-TO SEVEN-MILE STRIP, SECURITY ZONE ALONG THE BORDER. NOW, APPARENTLY, THEYVE OCCUPIED ALL OF SOUTHERN LEBANON BELOW THE RIVER. ARE THESE U.N. FORCES GOING TO MOVE INTO THE WHOLE AREA OR JUST THE BORDER AREA?

A. THEY WILL MOVE INTO THE AREA WHICH IT IS JUDGED TO BE NECESSARY TO OCCUPY TO CARRY OUT THE MANDATE OF THE COUNCIL. THAT MAY ROUGHLY CORRESPOND TO THE AREA THAT THE ISRAELI FORCES HAVE MOVED INTO.

Q. WHEN YOU SAY TECHNICALLY TO BE WORKED OUT, DO YOU MEAN WITH THE ISRAELIS OR WITHIN THE U.N.?

A. I THINK WITH THE ISRAELI AUTHORITIES, WITH THE LEBANESE AUTHORITIES, QUITE OBVIOUSLY.

Q. DO YOU INTERPRET THE RESOLUTION AS MEANING THAT AMONG THE OTHER THINGS THE U.N. SECURITY FORCE WILL DO WILL BE TO KEEP PALESTINIAN GUERRILLAS FROM RE-ENTERING THAT

AREA? THAT SEEMS TO BE THE ISRAELI CONDITION FOR LEAVING, AND THE RESOLUTION ITSELF REALLY DOESNT ADDRESS THAT SPECIFICALLY.

A. I THINK THAT THE WAY TO ANSWER THAT QUESTION IS TO REFER YOU TO THE THREE OBJECTIVES OF THE UNIFIL, AS IT IS BEING CALLED--THE UNITED NATIONS FORCE IN LEBANON. LET ME JUST QUOTE YOU FROM THE RESOLUTION, WHICH AIMS AT THREE GOALS: TO BRING ABOUT PROMPT ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM LEBANESE TERRITORY; TO AFFIRM THE PRINCIPLE OF LEBANESE SOVEREIGNTY AND CONTROL OVER ITS TERRITORY; AND TO CREATE A U.N. FORCE THAT WOULD ASSIST THE LEBANESE AUTHORITIES IN DOING THAT.

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I DONT THINK THAT REALISTICALLY ONE CAN SPEAK OF PREVENTING PALESTINIAN ELEMENTS FROM BEING IN THAT AREA, BUT I THINK IT IS CLEARLY SPELLED OUT IN THE SECOND OF THOSE GOALS, AFFIRMING THE PRINCIPLE OF SOVEREIGNTY AND CONTROL BY THE LEBANESE AUTHORITIES OVER THEIR TERRITORY.

Q. WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY REALISTICALLY?

A. WHAT DO I MEAN BY REALISTICALLY? I DONT THINK THAT IT IS A STATED OBJECTIVE TO PREVENT THE RETURN OF PALESTINIANS TO THE AREA THAT THE ISRAELI FORCES NOW OCCUPY. A STATED OBJECTIVE IS TO PREVENT A RECURRENCE OF THE TERRORISM THAT HAS RESULTED AND TO WHICH THE ISRAELI ACTIONS WERE A RESPONSE.

Q. YOU MEAN YOU CAN SEE A SITUATION WHERE THEY WOULD BE ALLOWED TO RETURN BUT NOT TO OPERATE FROM THERE?

A. I DONT WANT TO GET OUT AHEAD OF WHAT IS ACTUALLY GOING TO HAPPEN, I REALLY DONT. I AM SIMPLY SAYING THAT ONE OF THE PRIMARY GOALS OF THIS ENTIRE OPERATION IS TO PREVENT A RECURRENCE OF TERRORIST ACTIVITY SUCH AS WHAT WE HAVE JUST WITNESSED A WEEK OR TEN DAYS AGO. AND HOW IT IS GOING TO BE CARRIED OUT IS SOMETHING THAT I AM NOT GOING TO GET OUT AHEAD OF.

GEORGE SHERMAN IS POINTING OUT THAT AMONG THE RESPONSIBILITIES OUTLINED IN THE MANDATE OF THE PEACE-KEEPING FORCE IS THE FOLLOWING FOR THE FORCE: IT WILL SUPERVISE THE CEASE-FIRE; ENSURE THE DEMILITARIZED CHARACTER OF THE AREA--THAT IS ONE OF THE KEY POINTS; CONTROL MOVEMENT IN AND OUT OF THE AREA; AND PREVENT THE ENTRY OF
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UNAUTHORIZED ARMED PERSONS INTO THE AREA.

Q. HOW WILL THEY DO THAT SPECIFICALLY? THEY WILL BE ARMED, IS THAT RIGHT? I THOUGHT I HEARD A REPORT THAT THEY CAN USE THEIR ARMS ONLY FOR DEFENSIVE PURPOSES.

A. THE MEMBERS OF THE PEACE-KEEPING FORCE WILL BE EQUIPPED WITH WEAPONS FOR THEIR OWN DEFENSE. NOW, IF YOU WANT TO INTERPRET THAT--WHAT IS DEFENSE? I THINK THE MANDATE SOMEWHERE SPELLS OUT THAT -- WELL, LET ME GET IT FOR YOU PRECISELY.

Q. I AM INTERESTED IN HOW THEY WILL POLICE THE AREA, IF THEY ARE ONLY RESTRICTED IN USING ARMS TO --

A. LET ME JUST READ YOU WHAT THE MANDATE SAYS: THE FORCE WILL BE PROVIDED WITH WEAPONS OF A DEFENSIVE CHARACTER WHICH WILL NOT BE USED EXCEPT IN SELF-DEFENSE. NOW, SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 426 DEFINES SELF-DEFENSE AS RESISTANCE TO ATTEMPTS BY FORCEFUL MEANS TO PREVENT THE FORCE FROM DISCHARGING ITS DUTIES UNDER THE MANDATE.

NOW, WE DONT EXPECT--I OUGHT TO ADD HERE--THAT IT WILL COME TO THAT. THATS WHY ARRANGEMENTS ARE BEING TALKED ABOUT RIGHT NOW.

Q. WHAT ARE THE MECHANICS OF KEEPING THE TERRORISTS OUT, IF THEY CAN ONLY USE WEAPONS FOR THEIR OWN DEFENSE?

A. THATS SOMETHING I CANT STAND HERE TODAY AND TELL YOU HOW THAT IS GOING TO BE DONE. AGAIN, ITS BEING WORKED OUT. WE HAVE ONLY HAD THIS RESOLUTION YESTERDAY, AND EVEN TODAY THEY ARE TALKING ABOUT THE ARRANGEMENTS. BUT THERE IS NO WAY FOR ME TO SPELL OUT FOR YOU HOW

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IT'S ALL GOING TO HAPPEN.

Q. ARE THEY GOING TO TURN OVER TO THE U.N. THE WHOLE AREA THAT IS BEING OCCUPIED BY ISRAEL RIGHT NOW OR JUST TURN OVER TO THE U.N. A SECURITY BELT ONLY?

A. IN ANSWER TO A PREVIOUS QUESTION, I SAID I THOUGHT

THAT THE AREA OCCUPIED BY THE PEACE-KEEPING FORCE MIGHT
ROUGHLY CORRESPOND TO THAT NOW OCCUPIED BY THE ISRAELI
FORCES.

MR. SHERMAN: COULD I JUST INTERJECT HERE. I THINK, ONE,
THAT EVERYONE SHOULD READ THE MANDATE; ITS AN EXTREMELY
DETAILED AND PRECISE DOCUMENT. AND, SECONDLY, THE
SECRETARY-GENERAL THROUGH THE SECURITY COUNCIL UNDERLINES
THE FACT THAT UNAUTHORIZED PEOPLE WOULD NOT BE
ALLOWED BACK INTO THIS AREA. THIRD, WE ARE CONVINCED

THAT THE MANDATE, AS PASSED BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL, GIVES
THE NECESSARY AUTHORITY TO THE U.N. FORCE IN KEEPING
THE TERRORISTS FROM COMING BACK INTO THAT AREA.

Q. DID THE SECRETARY INVITE FOREIGN MINISTER DAYAN TO
VISIT HIM AND HAVE TALKS WITH HIM LAST NIGHT IN
WASHINGTON? AND DID FOREIGN MINISTER DAYAN TURN HIM
DOWN?

MR. TRATTNER: NO, THE SECRETARY DID NOT INVITE. THERE
WAS NEVER ANY SCHEDULED TRAVEL TO WASHINGTON YESTERDAY BY
FOREIGN MINISTER DAYAN.

Q. HAVE THEY TALKED SINCE MR. DAYAN HAS ARRIVED IN THE
UNITED STATES?
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A. I DONT KNOW THAT FOR A FACT. THERE HAVE BEEN PLENTY
OF CONTACTS, BUT THAT SPECIFIC ONE I DONT KNOW THE
ANSWER TO.

Q. ANY JUDGMENT ON THE FACT THAT THE AREA OCCUPIED BY
THE ISRAELI FORCES HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO THE RIVER? DOES
IT CHANGE YOUR APPRAISAL OF LAST WEEK?

A. NO, OUR POSITION ON THAT IS THE SAME. WE RECOGNIZE
THE NEED TO RESTORE THE AUTHORITY OF THE LEBANESE
GOVERNMENT IN THE AREA SO THAT PEACE AND SECURITY CAN
BE RESTORED, AND SO THAT THE AREA CAN BE PREVENTED FROM
TURNING INTO ANOTHER BATTLEFIELD AGAIN. AND WE BELIEVE
THAT IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THE PROBLEMS OF INSTABILITY
IN SOUTHERN LEBANON BE SOLVED IN SUCH A WAY AS NOT TO
FURTHER DISRUPT EFFORTS FOR A COMPREHENSIVE MIDDLE EAST
SETTLEMENT. THE U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL HAS PASSED A
RESOLUTION WHICH COVERS THE POINTS WE BELIEVE ARE
ESSENTIAL AND WHICH WE BELIEVE TO RESPOND TO THE NEEDS
OF THE PARTIES INVOLVED, NAMELY: RESPECT FOR THE
TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, SOVEREIGNTY, POLITICAL

INDEPENDENCE OF LEBANON; CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES;
WITHDRAWAL OF THE ISRAELI FORCES; AND THE INTRODUCTION OF
A U.N. FORCE TO HELP THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT RESTORE ITS
AUTHORITY IN THE AREA AND TO PREVENT HOSTILE ACTIONS IN
THE FUTURE.

Q. ON FRIDAY THE TRANSCRIPT REVEALS THAT HODDING
ANNOUNCED AS ONE OF OUR OBJECTIVES FOR THE MIDDLE EAST
"LEBANON'S SOVEREIGNTY AND CONTROL TO BE EXTENDED AS
QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE THROUGHOUT THAT COUNTRY, SO THAT
THE INTEGRITY OF THESE BORDERS BE MAINTAINED." DOES THIS

OBJECTIVE APPLY TO LEBANON'S EASTERN BORDER AS WELL AS
ITS SOUTHERN BORDER, OR DOES THE STATE DEPARTMENT, AFTER
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THE CONVERSATIONS WITH THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT WHICH
HODDING MENTIONED, CONTEND THAT THE LEBANESE APPRECIATE
SYRIAN OCCUPATION BUT NOT THE ISRAELI OCCUPATION?

A. I THINK THAT HODDING ANSWERED YOU ON THAT, AT L-AST
TO MY SATISFACTION, FRIDAY. THERE IS A DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN THE PRESENCE OF FORCES IN A COUNTRY AT ITS OWN
CONSENT AND INVITATION, AND THE INVASION WITHOUT SUCH
CONSENT AND INVITATION--AND THAT IS THE ESSENTIAL
DIFFERENCE HERE.

Q. YES, BUT ON WHAT BASIS DO WE ESTIMATE THIS? WHEN HAS
THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT STATED THAT THEY DO ENJOY THE
SYRIANS OCCUPYING THEIR COUNTRY?

A. I DONT KNOW THAT THEY HAVE EVER STATED THAT THEY
ENJOY IT.

Q. WELL, DID THEY APPRECIATE IT? IS IT REGARDED AS
VALUABLE TO THEM? IS THERE ANY STATEMENT FROM LEBANON
THAT YOU KNOW OF?

A. I WILL HAVE TO GO BACK INTO THE RECORD TO NOTE
WHAT THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT HAS SAID ON THE SUBJECT.

MR. SHERMAN: JOHN, THE ARAB DETERRENT FORCE, OF
WHICH SYRIA IS ONE PART, IS THERE AS THE RESULT OF THE
DECISION OF THE RIYADH CONFERENCE, OF WHICH LEBANON WAS
A PART.

Q. IS THE U.S. GOVERNMENT NOW TALKING TO THE LEBANESE
GOVERNMENT ABOUT TRYING TO GET LEBANESE ARMY UNITS INTO
THE SOUTHERN PART OF LEBANON ALONG WITH THE U.N. TROOPS?
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MR. TRATTNER: BEYOND SAYING THAT WE ARE IN TOUCH WITH EVERYBODY INVOLVED, I REALLY CANT BE PRECISE ABOUT WHAT WE ARE TALKING ABOUT WITH THEM.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY ESTIMATE OF WHEN THE U.N. FORCE MIGHT BE IN PLACE?

A. I DONT.

Q. CAN YOU GIVE IT TO US IN ROUGH TERMS?

A. I CAN ONLY EXPRESS THE HOPE THAT THEY WILL BE IN

PLACE AS SOON AS THE ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE WORKED OUT. I HOPE THAT THE FIRST UNITS WOULD BE IN THERE WITHIN 24 TO 48 HOURS--BUT THERES NO WAY TO PREDICT THAT.

Q. IS IT POSSIBLE THAT THE OPERATION IS GOING TO BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF THE MONTH, OR SO?

A. THERES NO WAY FOR ME TO TELL YOU. OBVIOUSLY WE WOULD HOPE LONG BEFORE THAT.

Q. IS IT NECESSARY FOR THE ISRAELIS TO BEGIN WITHDRAWING BEFORE THE U.N. FORCE CAN BEGIN MOVING INTO THE AREA? YOU SAY YOU HOPE WITHIN THE NEXT 24 TO 48 HOURS--CAN THEY MOVE IN THERE WITH ISRAELI FORCES STILL IN PLACE?

MR. TRATTNER: AGAIN, THATS SOMETHING THAT IS BEING DISCUSSED RIGHT NOW, HOW IT IS GOING TO BE DONE. I THINK YOU HAVE GOT TO WAIT TO SEE WHATS WORKED OUT AND HOW IT ACTUALLY BEGINS TO TAKE PLACE. I AM NOT GOING TO TELL YOU THAT SOMETHING HAS TO HAPPEN BEFORE SOMETHING ELSE HAS TO HAPPEN. THE INTERESTS OF ALL THE PEOPLE INVOLVED HAVE TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT--AND THAT IS WHAT I ASSUME
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THESE DISCUSSIONS ARE ALL ABOUT.

Q. YOU REFERRED BEFORE TO THE PROBLEMS OF INSTABILITY IN SOUTHERN LEBANON. DOES THE PRESENCE OF PALESTINIAN TERRORISTS CONTRIBUTE TO INSTABILITY IN LEBANON?

A. I WOULD SAY YES.

Q. AND DOES THE PRESENCE OF ISRAELI FORCES CONTRIBUTE TO INSTABILITY IN LEBANON?

A. I THINK WHEN WE TALK ABOUT INSTABILITY WE ARE TALKING ABOUT THE PREVIOUSLY EXISTING SITUATION.

Q. OKAY, THATS WHAT I THOUGHT. NOW, THE SYRIANS ARE THERE BY INVITATION, AND I SUSPECT YOU DONT THINK THEY CONTRIBUTE TO INSTABILITY; THE PALESTINIAN TERRORISTS DO BECAUSE THEY WERENT INVITED IN--IS THAT CORRECT?

A. I WOULD SAY THAT WHEN WE ARE TALKING ABOUT SOUTHERN LEBANON THE PRESENCE OF PALESTINIAN TERRORISTS IS OBVIOUSLY A DESTABILIZING FACTOR.

Q. YOU RECOGNIZE, CERTAINLY, THAT THE LEBANESE ARMY ISNT ON THE VERGE OF READINESS TO MAINTAIN CONTROL OF ALL OF

LEBANON. WHAT IS THE UNITED STATES PREPARED TO DO TO REMOVE THIS INSTABLE CONDITION?

A. I THINK WHAT WE HAVE ALREADY DONE PRIMARILY IS TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE IN PRODUCING A U.N. ACTION WHICH IS INTENDED TO HELP THE GOVERNMENT DO JUST THAT. WE HAVE ALSO, AS WE HAVE NOTED BEFORE, BEEN HELPING THE LEBANESE UNCLASSIFIED

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TO REBUILD THEIR OWN ARMY. AND I THINK THOSE TWO THINGS, AMONG OTHERS, GO HAND IN HAND OVER THE LONG PULL.

Q. DO YOU KNOW WHAT IMPACT, IF ANY, THIS IS GOING TO HAVE ON THE SCHEDULE OF BEGIN'S TALKS AND ALSO DAYAN'S TALKS HERE? IS THERE ANYTHING LEFT TO BE DISCUSSED BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND ISRAEL ON SOUTHERN LEBANON?

A. I WONT PRETEND THAT THERE WONT BE SOME DISCUSSION BETWEEN US ON THE SUBJECT, BUT AS YOU KNOW, OUR FEELING VERY STRONGLY IS THAT THE WIDER ISSUES OF A PEACE SETTLEMENT IN THE REGION, WHICH WERE ON THE AGENDA ORIGINALLY OF THIS VISIT BY THE PRIME MINISTER, ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED -- AND THEY WILL BE THE MAIN FOCUS OF THE TALKS THAT WE WILL BE HAVING WITH THE ISRAELIS THIS WEEK.

Q. IS ANY STUDY BEING MADE BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO SEE WHETHER ISRAEL MAY HAVE VIOLATED THE TERMS OF THE U.S. ARMS EXPORT CONTROL ACT IN ITS INVASION OF LEBANON?

A. I THINK WE GOT THAT QUESTION LAST WEEK. WE ARE STILL WHERE WE WERE ON THE SUBSTANCE OF IT.

Q. HODDING DID NOT READ THE U.S. ARMS EXPORT CONTROL -- HE READ A PART OF THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND ISRAEL BY WHICH ISRAEL RECEIVED THE ARMS, AN AGREEMENT OF 1952. I AM REFERRING TO THE U.S. ARMS EXPORT CONTROL ACT. I AM ASKING WHETHER ISRAEL HAS VIOLATED THE TERMS OF THAT ACT, AND WHETHER ANY STUDY IS UNDER WAY TO DETERMINE WHETHER ISRAEL HAS VIOLATED THE TERMS OF THAT ACT?

A. MY ANSWER IS GOING TO HAVE TO BE THE SAME.

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Q. IS THERE A STUDY UNDER WAY IN THIS DEPARTMENT?

A. I DONT KNOW IS THE ANSWER TO THAT.

Q. A COUPLE OF CONGRESSMEN HAVE REQUESTED SUCH A STUDY.

A. YES, THATS RIGHT. I AM NOT FAMILIAR WITH THE CONTENTS, BUT I KNOW THAT A LETTER HAS BEEN RECEIVED FROM CONGRESSMEN FINDLEY AND WHALEN. WE ARE REVIEWING THE SITUATION WITH WHICH THE LETTER DEALS. I DONT HAVE ANYTHING FURTHER FOR YOU ON IT NOW. THE LETTER WILL BE RESPONDED TO IN DUE COURSE, PROMPTLY BY THE SECRETARY, AND AT THAT POINT YOU MAY BE ABLE TO FIND OUT WHAT CONCLUSIONS WE OURSELVES HAVE REACHED.

Q. WHEN DID THIS REVIEW BEGIN?

A. I THINK WITH THE RECEIPT OF THE LETTER.

Q. DO YOU KNOW WHEN THAT WAS?

A. OVER THE WEEKEND, AS FAR AS I KNOW.

Q. IF THE ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE OF THE U.N. FORCES IS TO HAND OVER TO THE LEBANESE FORCES, ARE THERE ANY PLANS FOR INCREASING THE PACE OF U.S. MILITARY AID TO LEBANON? CAN YOU GIVE US ANY DETAILS ON IT?

A. I HAVE NOT HEARD OF ANY SUCH.

I AM TOLD--JUST TO GO BACK ABOUT EIGHT QUESTIONS OR SO-- I READ YOU FROM APPARENTLY AN INCORRECT VERSION OF PART OF THE MANDATE, AND I WOULD LIKE TO READ IT INTO THE
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RECORD SO THAT WE WILL AVOID ANY MISUNDERSTANDING. THIS DEALS WITH THE MANDATE OF UNIFIL. THIS IS PARAGRAPH 6 OF THE MANDATE DOCUMENT. AND THIS IS IN THE FORM OF A REPORT BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE U.N. TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL.

"I ENVISAGE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF UNIFIL AS A TWO-STAGE OPERATION. IN THE FIRST STAGE, THE FORCE WILL CONFIRM THE WITHDRAWAL OF ISRAELI FORCES FROM LEBANESE TERRITORY TO THE INTERNATIONAL BORDER. ONCE THIS IS ACHIEVED, IT WILL ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN AN AREA OF OPERATION AS DEFINED.

"IN THIS CONNECTION, IT WILL SUPERVISE THE CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES AND ENSURE THE PEACEFUL CHARACTER OF THE AREA OF OPERATION, CONTROL MOVEMENT, AND TAKE ALL MEASURES DEEMED NECESSARY TO ASSURE THE EFFECTIVE RESTORATION OF LEBANESE SOVEREIGNTY."

Q. IS THAT EARLIER VERSION A DRAFT THAT GOT AMENDED

BECAUSE OF ARAB PROTEST? ITS OBVIOUSLY TONED DOWN CONSIDERABLY.

A. I DONT KNOW--I REALLY HONESTLY CANT ANSWER YOU. IT WAS SOMETHING THAT I WAS PROVIDED--BUT I CANT SAY THAT IT IS WHAT YOU SAY THAT IT MIGHT BE.

Q. WHO IS IT THAT IS GOING TO DEEM NECESSARY? WILL IT BE THE COMMANDER OF THE U.N. FORCE OR THE SECRETARY GENERAL OR WHO?

A. ALL OF THOSE PLUS THE SECURITY COUNCIL, I WOULD SAY.

Q. CAN I ASK YOU WHAT THAT PIECE OF PAPER YOU WERE HANDED IS? WAS THAT AN ADVISORY OR IS THAT AN EARLIER UNCLASSIFIED

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DRAFT?

A. NO, THIS IS NOT AN EARLIER DRAFT. ITS TALKING POINTS WHICH I THINK ARE BEING USED UP ON THE HILL, AS A MATTER OF FACT, TO EXPLAIN WHAT HAS HAPPENED. AND THERE IS AN INCORRECT VERSION.

Q. BEING ON THE HILL?

A. I WOULDNT MAKE A WHOLE LOT OUT OF THIS; ITS SIMPLY ONE VERSION, ANOTHER VERSION, AND I AM FAR FROM CONFIRMING.

Q. ONE DOESNT AGREE WITH THE OTHER. IS THAT EARLIER VERSION WHICH YOU VERY HONESTLY HAVE CORRECTED--IS THAT THE ONE THAT YOUR STATE DEPARTMENT HONCHOS ARE TALKING ABOUT ON THE HILL?

A. NO.

Q. YOU HAVE THE PHRASE IN THAT SECOND ONE ABOUT CONTROLLED MOVEMENT. WHAT DOES THAT MEAN--MOVEMENT OF WHAT?

A. WELL, I DONT WANT TO TRY TO SPELL IT OUT FOR YOU.

Q. YOU ARE SAYING THAT THIS IS THE MANDATE OF SOME KIND OF A FORCE.

A. I WOULD SAY THE MOVEMENT OF MILITARY FORCES OF ONE KIND AND ANOTHER -- AND I DONT WANT TO DEFINE THAT FURTHER THAN THAT.

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Q. WHEN THE U.N. IS SENT OFF TO DO A MISSION, ARE THE WORDS REALLY THAT VAGUE, AND WHO IS THEN TO DETERMINE WHAT IT REALLY MEANS? WHAT ARE YOU CONTROLLING, WHAT MOVEMENT?

A. FIRST OF ALL, WHO DETERMINES IT ARE THE PEOPLE ON THE GROUND WHO ARE NOW CONSULTING ABOUT HOW IT IS TO BE CARRIED OUT.

Q. YES, BUT THEY ARE VERY CAREFUL ABOUT ALWAYS GOING WITH THE U.N. RESOLUTION AND WHAT IT IS THAT THEY ARE SUPPOSED TO DO AND WHAT THEIR MANDATE IS, ETC; THATS WHAT WE ARE ALWAYS TOLD. NOW, YOU HAVE JUST READ US THE EXACT LANGUAGE.

A. I AM NOT ABLE TO INTERPRET IT FOR YOU. I THINK ONCE AGAIN YOU ARE TRYING TO TAKE ME OUT IN FRONT OF WHAT IS ACTUALLY GOING TO HAPPEN. I ASSUME THAT CONTROLLING MOVEMENT MEANS THE MOVEMENT OF ANYBODY WHOSE ACTIONS MIGHT BE INIMICAL TO THE MISSION OF THE FORCE WHICH IS TO RESTORE PEACE AND HELP THE LEBANESE AUTHORITIES EXTEND THEIR CONTROL. I AM CERTAINLY NOT

GOING TO GO BEYOND THAT KIND OF AN INTERPRETATION.

Q. BUT IN YOUR READING OF THAT PARAGRAPH 6 THERE IS A CLEAR SEQUENCE OF ACTIONS IMPLIED, WHICH IS THAT FIRST THE ISRAELIS WITHDRAW, PRESUMABLY TO WITHIN THEIR OWN BORDERS, THEN THE PROCESS OF ARRANGING A CEASE-FIRE, CONTROLLING MOVEMENT, ETC., WILL TAKE PLACE. THAT APPEARS TO BE IN CLEAR CONTRADICTION TO THE SEQUENCE THAT THE ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER HAD IN MIND WHEN HE TALKED TO REPORTERS IN THE PAST COUPLE OF DAYS, WHICH IS THAT ONCE IT TAKES PLACE, THE CEASE-FIRE AND THE CONTROL OF MOVEMENT, THEN THE ISRAELIS WILL WITHDRAW. WOULD YOU AGREE THAT THERE DOES APPEAR TO BE THAT CONFLICT?

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A. I DONT KNOW. FIRST OF ALL, I AM NOT TERRIBLY FAMILIAR WITH WHAT THE ISRAELIS HAVE SAID ON THIS SCORE. BUT I WOULD SIMPLY STICK WITH THIS, WHICH HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL, WITHOUT TRYING TO SET UP YOU KNOW WHAT KIND OF A MATCH BETWEEN THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND THE ISRAELIS.

Q. THERE IS SOMETHING LEFT OVER FROM LAST WEEK. AFTER THE PALESTINIAN ATTACK, AMBASSADOR DINITZ CAME IN AND ASKED THE UNITED STATES TO CLOSE THE PLO OFFICE IN NEW YORK, AND HE WAS TOLD THAT IT WAS TAKEN UNDER ADVISEMENT OR UNDER CONSIDERATION. HAS THERE BEEN A DECISION?

A. I DONT KNOW THAT THERE HAS OR HASNT BEEN.

Q. YOU SPOKE OF THE SYRIANS AS PART OF THE ARAB PEACE-KEEPING FORCE. ARE THERE ANY OTHER NATIONS IN THAT ARAB-PEACE-KEEPING FORCE IN EASTERN LEBANON BESIDES SYRIA, OR ARE THERE A GREAT MANY?

A. GEORGE, DO YOU HAVE AN ANSWER? I BELIEVE THERE ARE.

MR. SHERMAN: THERE ARE OTHER ARAB--KUWAIT, FOR INSTANCE, HAS FORCES IN IT.

Q. ARE THERE ANY FROM NORTH AFRICA? MOROCCO, TUNISIA, LIBYA?

MR. SHERMAN: I DONT KNOW; I WOULD HAVE TO GET THE EXACT LIST OF PEOPLE.

Q. ARE WE MAKING ANY PROPOSALS OR SUGGESTIONS REGARDING THE MAKE-UP OF THE PEACE-KEEPING FORCE?

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MR. TRATTNER: I DONT KNOW; I THINK WE PROBABLY CONSULTED ON IT. THE SECRETARY GENERAL, I THINK, HAS BEEN DOING MOST OF THE MAIN CONSULTING ON IT. I DONT KNOW IF WE HAVE HAD ANY SUGGESTIONS, OTHER THAN THAT WE WILL NOT HAVE, OF COURSE, ANY INVOLVEMENT OF OUR OWN FORCES.

Q. FOR THE RECORD, THE ISRAELI AMBASSADOR TO THE U.N., MR. HERTZOG, YESTERDAY COMPLAINED THAT THE RESOLUTION WAS RAILROADED THROUGH THE SECURITY COUNCIL WITHOUT ADEQUATE CONSULTATION WITH ISRAEL, PARTICULARLY SINCE THE PRIME MINISTER WANTED TO DISCUSS IT HERE. WHAT WAS THE REASON FOR THE URGENCY BY THE UNITED STATES?

A. LET ME SAY A COUPLE OF THINGS ON THAT. I THINK THE ESSENTIAL POINT I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE IS THAT WE RECOGNIZED THAT TIME WAS SHORT, THE SCOPE OF THE FIGHTING WAS RAPIDLY WIDENING YESTERDAY, SUNDAY, AND WE FELT THAT DELAY IN TAKING A DECISION WOULD BE EXTREMELY DANGEROUS, AND THAT THE NEED FOR QUICK DECISION WAS URGENT. NOW, WE SOUGHT THE ISRAELI VIEWS SOON AFTER WE GOT THE U.N. SECRETARIAT'S PROPOSED MANDATE ON SUNDAY OURSELVES. AND I THINK WE SOUGHT THEIR VIEWS BOTH IN NEW YORK AND IN WASHINGTON. THE EMBASSY HERE WAS CALLED AND URGED TO GIVE US THEIR COMMENTS HERE AND IN NEW YORK. AND THE U.S. MISSION IN NEW YORK CALLED THE ISRAELI MISSION IN MID-

AFTERNOON YESTERDAY FOR ITS COMMENTS. BUT TIME WAS OF THE ESSENCE.

WE FEEL THAT THE ISRAELI CONCERNS HAVE BEEN MET BY THE ACTION THAT THE SECURITY COUNCIL TOOK. IN OUR VIEW, IN FACT, THE MANDATE THAT HAS BEEN WORKED OUT MEETS THE MAJRO CONCERNS OF BOTH OURSELVES AND THE ISRAELIS, THAT THE U.N. FORCE HAVE ADEQUATE AUTHORITY TO PREVENT THE

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RETURN OF TERRORISTS INTO THE AREA OF SOUTHERN LEBANON.

Q. WHEN YOU SAY THE FIGHTING WAS WIDENING, DO YOU MEAN MORE PEOPLE WERE GETTING KILLED OR ISRAEL WAS GAINING MORE GROUND?

A. WELL, BOTH.

Q. MORE PEOPLE WERE BEING KILLED YESTERDAY THAN EARLIER IN THE WEEK?

A. WELL, I THINK PEOPLE WERE CONTINUING TO BE INJURED AND KILLED, AND THE SCALE --

Q. BECAUSE YOU ARE BUILDING SOME CRISIS SITUATION HERE, AND FROM WAY OUT HERE THE ONLY THING I SEE THAT WAS HAPPENING IS THAT ISRAEL WAS MAKING GAINS. AND THE FIGHTING I HEAR TODAY IS ACTUALLY EBBING, ITS GOTTEN TO THE MOP-UP STAGE.

A. WELL, IM GLAD TO HEAR THAT. I AM NOT GOING TO TRY TO GO BEYOND THIS.

Q. ARE WE ASSURED THAT THE ARAB PEACE-KEEPING FORCE IN EASTERN LEBANON IS KEEPING THE AREA FREE OF TERRORISTS, AS WE EXPECT THE UNITED NATIONS FORCE TO KEEP SOUTHERN LEBANON CLEAR OF TERRORISTS?

A. WE CERTAINLY HOPE SO.

Q. THEN DOES THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAVE ANY CONTINGENCY PLAN IN THE EVENT THAT ISRAEL SAYS WE WILL BE GLAD TO WITHDRAW IN FAVOR OF THE UNITED NATIONS IF SYRIA
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WILL WITHDRAW IN FAVOR OF THE UNITED NATIONS?

A. NO, I DONT SEE A PARALLEL BETWEEN THE TWO.

Q. WELL, IN OTHER WORDS, IF ISRAEL WOULD TAKE THAT POSITION--DO YOU THINK IT IS ABSOLUTELY IMPOSSIBLE THAT ISRAEL COULD SAY NO, WE HAVE HAD TOO MUCH TROUBLE

FROM TERRORISTS FROM UP THERE; IF THE SYRIANS WILL WITHDRAW AND THE U.N. WILL PATROL THAT AREA, THEN WE WILL WITHDRAW.

A. I DONT WANT TO PREDICT WHAT THE ISRAELIS WILL DO. YOU KNOW, THIS IS A HYPOTHETICAL QUESTION IN ANY CASE.

Q. YOU SAID THAT THE U.N. WILL CONTROL EVERY MOVEMENT AND UNAUTHORIZED INDIVIDUALS FROM ENTERING THE AREA. SINCE THE ARAB PEACE-KEEPING FORCE IN LEBANON IS AUTHORIZED TO BE THERE, WOULD THE U.N. OBJECT TO THE ENTRY OF THE ARAB PEACE-KEEPING FORCE TO ENTER THAT AREA AS WELL?

A. THAT IS SOMETHING THAT I AM NOT COMPETENT TO ANSWER FOR YOU. THIS IS A U.N. MANDATE TO BE CARRIED OUT BY THE U.N. IT IS SOMETHING I DONT ENVISAGE IS VERY LIKELY, IN ANY CASE.

Q. YOU WERE ASKED ABOUT THE SEQUENCE THAT WAS WRITTEN INTO THIS PARAGRAPH 6. YOU STARTED THIS BRIEFING WHEN YOU WERE ASKED ABOUT SOUTHERN LEBANON, SAYING THAT WE FEEL THAT ISRAEL WILL COOPERATE AND WE SEE NO REASON WHY THEY WONT. IS THAT, THEN, TO SUGGEST, SINCE YOU OBVIOUSLY HAD ALL OF THE CONSULTATIONS THAT YOU TOLD US ABOUT WITH THE ISRAELIS YESTERDAY, THAT THE ISRAELIS AGREE WITH THIS SEQUENCE? BECAUSE IF YOU SEE NO REASON WHY THEY WONT OBJECT, THAT WOULD SUGGEST THAT VERY STRONGLY. UNCLASSIFIED

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A. WELL, WE HAVE NOT BEEN TOLD THAT THE ISRAELIS ARE OPPOSED TO THE ACTION OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL, WHICH I ASSUME INCLUDES THAT PARAGRAPH OF THE MANDATE. NOW, THE SECRETARY GENERAL AND HIS PEOPLE WILL BE DISCUSSING THIS WITH THE ISRAELIS AS WELL AS THE LEBANESE WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. AS I SAID, OUR EXPECTATION IS THAT THE ISRAELIS WILL COOPERATE.

Q. WHAT ABOUT ANSWERING THE QUESTION MORE DIRECTLY. HAVE YOU HAD ANY CONTACTS WITH THE ISRAELIS, PARTICULARLY WITH PRIME MINISTER BEGIN, SINCE HIS ARRIVAL HERE, THAT WOULD INDICATE THAT THE ISRAELIS SUPPORT THE ACTION OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL?

A. I AM NOT AWARE THAT THERE HAS BEEN ANY KIND OF SUBSTANTIVE CONTACT LIKE THAT.

Q. SO WHAT YOU ARE JUST SAYING IS THE FACT THAT YOU HAVENT HEARD ANYTHING IN THE SAY OF COMPLAINTS DIRECTLY FROM THEM INDICATES THEIR SUPPORT, ISNT THAT WHAT YOU ARE SAYING?

A. THATS WHAT I AM SAYING, YES. AND I AM SAYING THAT BASED ON OUR AWARE NESS OF THEIR MAJOR CONCERN,AND THE FACT THAT THE SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION HAS RESPONDED TO THAT MAJOR CONCERN.

Q. ARE YOU AWARE OF WHAT ISRAEL'S PRESENT MILITARY INTENTIONS ARE? YOU HAVE BEEN IN DISCUSSION WITH THEM. HAVE THEY MADE IT CLEAR WHAT THEIR PRESENT OPERATIVE MILITARY INTENTIONS ARE? UNCLASSIFIED

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A. I THINK THEY HAVE STATED THEM.

Q. ARE YOU AWARE OF AN ISRAEL PLAN CALLED MODIFIED OPERATION II, WHICH I HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY HIGH INTELLIGENCE SOURCES IN THE UNITED STATES IS SOON TO BE OPERATIVE, WHICH WOULD ATTEMPT TO DRAW SYRIAN FORCES INTO AN ESCALATION IN ORDER TO ACCOMPLISH A FULL-SCALE INVASION OF LEBANON AND MILITARY CONFRONTATION WITH SYRIA?

A. NO, I AM CERTAINLY NOT AWARE OF THAT.

Q. DOES THE ADMINISTRATION NOW CONSIDER SYRIA TO BE A SOVIET PROXY?

A. NO.

Q. I GET THE IMPRESSION THAT YOU CONSIDER, AND MAYBE RIGHTLY SO, THAT THIS U.N. SOLUTION IS THE BEST AVAILABLE SOLUTION AT THE MOMENT. DOES THAT MEAN THAT MR. BEGIN WILL BE WASTING HIS TIME TRYING TO SUGGEST OTHER ALTERNATIVES TO THE PRESIDENT WHEN HE MEETS WITH HIM TOMORROW?

A. WELL, OF COURSE, MR. BEGIN IS FREE AND WELCOME TO SUGGEST ANYTHING THAT HE WANTS TO SUGGEST IN THAT REGARD. I THINK THE ANSWER TO THE FIRST PART OF YOUR QUESTION IS YES, WE DO FEEL THAT WHAT HAS TAKEN PLACE AND WHAT IS UNDER WAY AND IN TRAIN RIGHT NOW IS THE BEST POSSIBLE WAY TO HANDLE THIS, NOT ONLY NOW BUT IN THE FUTURE.

Q. BUT IT DOES NOT PRECLUDE ANY ALTERNATIVE PLAN HE MIGHT SUGGEST?

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A. NO, I WOULDNT SAY IN ADVANCE OF KNOWING WHAT THE PRIME MINISTER MAY WANT TO SUGGEST ON THAT SCORE, THAT ANYTHING IS EXCLUDED, NO--OF COURSE NOT. BUT THATS NOT SAYING VERY MUCH.

Q. A POINT OF CLARIFICATION. YOU WERE SAYING THAT YOU FEEL THAT ISRAEL WILL COOPERATE WITH THIS U.N. UNDER-

TAKING BECAUSE YOU HAVE NO EVIDENCE TO THE CONTRARY,
ALTHOUGH YOU HAVE NO WORD OF SUPPORT FROM ISRAEL ON IT.

A. I DONT WANT TO SAY THAT WE DONT HAVE ANY WORD OF
SUPPORT. I DONT THINK WE HAVE ANY SUBSTANTIVE
INDICATIONS AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF THE ISRAELI
GOVERNMENT, YOU KNOW, IN ANY GREAT DETAIL, NO--BUT
WE HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH, WE HAVE ASKED THEM FOR THEIR
VIEWS A COUPLE OF TIMES. AND I THINK YESTERDAY, AT SOME
POINT JUST BEFORE THE VOTE ON THE MANDATE WAS TO TAKE
PLACE, WE DID HEAR FROM THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT ABOUT
THEIR MAJOR CONCERN, WHICH, AS I HAVE SAID, APPEARS TO
BE--AND WE FEEL IT IS A MAJOR CONCERN--MAKING SOUTHERN
LEBANON SAFE FOR NON-TERRORISM. AND WE THINK THAT THAT
CONCERN HAS BEEN MET. I DONT MEAN TO BE JOKING ABOUT
A SERIOUS MATTER.

Q. HAVE YOU HEARD YET ABOUT ANY OTHER ISRAELI
CONDITIONS FOR WITHDRAWAL?

A. NO.

Q. CAN YOU TELL US MORE ABOUT HOW THE U.S. VIEWS THE
LONG-TERM SOLUTION IN LEBANON? YOU SAID YOU KNOW OF NO
PLANS FOR INCREASING MILITARY AID TO LEBANON. ARE ANY
OTHER COUNTRIES INVOLVED--EUROPEAN COUNTRIES OR ARAB
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COUNTRIES--IN RECONSTITUTING THE LEBANESE FORCES? HOW
DO WE SEE THE LONG-TERM SOLUTION? WE ARE JUST TALKING
ABOUT A HOPEFULLY TEMPORARY CRISIS AT THE MOMENT.

A. I THINK THE LONG-TERM SOLUTION--WE HAVE BEEN SAYING
FOR AT LEAST A COUPLE OF YEARS--IS THE RESTORATION OF
THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT'S AUTHORITY IN ALL PARTS OF THE
COUNTRY, AND A RESPECT FOR ITS BORDERS AND ITS SOVEREIGN-
TY AND ITS POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE. THE CURRENT U.N.
ACTION IS A SHORT-TERM ACTION WHICH WE HOPE WILL RESTORE
THE SITUATION THAT MEETS THE DESIRES OF ALL CONCERNED
IN THAT AREA. BEYOND THAT, I REALLY DONT WANT TO LAY OUT
PLANS.

Q. THERE IS A DOLS 100 MILLION MILITARY AID PROGRAM. I
WAS ASKING IF THIS IS BEING STEPPED UP IN TERMS OF TIME
FRAME AND WHETHER OTHER COUNTRIES ARE INVOLVED.

MR. TRATTNER: GEORGE, DO YOU WANT TO SPEAK TO THAT POINT?

MR. SHERMAN: THAT IS A DOLS 100 MILLION PROGRAM SPREAD
OVER THREE YEARS. DOLS 25 MILLION HAS ALREADY GONE.

THE LEBANESE THEMSELVES ARE STEPPING UP THEIR ORGANIZATION OF THEIR ARMED FORCES. AND WE HAVE UNDERTAKEN A PROGRAM, AS I SAY, STRETCHING OVER THREE YEARS.

Q. SO IT WOULD TAKE THREE YEARS FOR THE LEBANESE TO BE CAPABLE OF --

MR. SHERMAN: NO, NO, I AM SAYING THAT OUR PROGRAM EXTENDS OVER THREE YEARS. WE WOULD HOPE WELL BEFORE THEN.

Q. ARE OTHER COUNTRIES INVOLVED? ARE THE COUNTRIES IN THE GULF, FOR INSTANCE, CONTRIBUTING TOWARD RECONSTITUTING,
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MR. SHERMAN: NOT THAT I KNOW OF, NO.

Q. DOES THE DEPARTMENT HAVE ANY EVIDENCE THAT THE INITIAL COMMANDO ATTACK THAT PRECIPITATED ALL OF THIS CAME FROM ANY PART OF THE AREA THAT IS NOW UNDER ISRAELI CONTROL?

MR. TRATTNER: WE MAY. I DONT KNOW MYSELF.

2. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS TAKEN AT THE NOON BRIEFING, THE FOLLOWING ANSWERS WERE POSTED IN THE DEPARTMENT PRESS OFFICE.

Q. HOW MANY HAVE BEEN KILLED AND WOUNDED IN LEBANON?

A. WE HAVE NO PRECISE FIGURES, BUT THERE ARE ESTIMATES OF UPWARDS OF A TOTAL OF 500 KILLED AND A LARGER NUMBER WOUNDED.

Q. HAS A DECISION BEEN TAKEN ON CLOSING THE PLO OFFICE?

A. WE ARE CONTINUING TO STUDY THE MATTER.

Q. WHAT COUNTRIES HAVE FORCES IN THE ARAB DETERRENT FORCE?

A. SYRIA, SAUDI ARABIA, THE SUDAN AND THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES. VANCE

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